

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A mounting arrangement for an automobile heating core, the automobile having a dash panel defining a boundary between a passenger compartment and an engine compartment comprising:

an inlet pipe extending between the dash panel and the heating core for delivering fluid to the heating core;

an outlet pipe extending between the dash panel and the heating core for delivering fluid away from the heating core; and

a fluid collection member positioned in said passenger compartment and arranged to collect fluid leaking from said inlet and outlet pipes.

2. The mounting arrangement of claim 1, further comprising:

an evaporator disposed in said passenger compartment and having a drain tube extending therefrom for delivering condensation away from said evaporator and to said fluid collection member.

3. The mounting arrangement of claim 2 wherein said fluid collection member includes a planar portion and a wall extending around a perimeter thereof.

4. The mounting arrangement of claim 3 wherein said wall includes an opening for accommodating said drain tube of said evaporator.

5. The mounting arrangement of claim 1 wherein said fluid collection member includes an outlet port for draining fluid away from said fluid collection member.

6. The mounting arrangement of claim 5 wherein said outlet port extends through the dash panel for directing fluid from said passenger compartment to said engine compartment.

7. The mounting arrangement of claim 1 wherein said fluid collection member is disposed generally below said passenger compartment pipes whereby gravity influences leaking fluid into said fluid collection member.

8. An HVAC arrangement for an automobile comprising:

- a dash panel defining a boundary between a passenger compartment and an engine compartment;
- an HVAC case disposed in said passenger compartment and containing a heating core therein;
- an inlet and outlet pipe extending in said passenger compartment from said heater core to said dash panel; and
- a fluid collection member coupled to said HVAC case and positioned between a vehicle occupant and said inlet and outlet pipes to preclude contact of said occupant and said inlet and outlet pipes, said fluid collection member arranged to collect fluid leaking from said inlet and outlet pipe and carry said fluid from said passenger compartment to said engine compartment.

9. The mounting arrangement of claim 8, further comprising:

- an evaporator disposed in said passenger compartment and having a drain tube extending therefrom for delivering condensation away from said evaporator and to said fluid collection member.

10. The mounting arrangement of claim 9 wherein said fluid collection member includes a planar portion and a wall extending around a perimeter thereof, said wall further presenting a raised portion extending between an occupant and said inlet and outlet pipes to minimize contact between said occupant and said inlet and outlet pipes.

11. The mounting arrangement of claim 10 wherein said wall includes an opening for receiving said drain tube of said evaporator.

12. The mounting arrangement of claim 8 wherein said fluid collection member includes an outlet port for draining fluid away from said fluid collection member.

13. The mounting arrangement of claim 12 wherein said outlet port extends through said dash panel.

14. The mounting arrangement of claim 8 wherein said fluid collection member is disposed generally below said passenger compartment pipes whereby gravity influences leaking fluid into said fluid collection member.

15. An HVAC system for an automobile comprising:

a dash panel defining a boundary between a passenger compartment and an engine compartment;

an inlet pipe disposed in said passenger compartment and carrying fluid to a heater core;

an outlet pipe disposed in said passenger compartment and carrying fluid away from said heater core; and

a tray arranged in said passenger compartment proximate to said inlet and outlet pipes and configured to collect fluid escaping from said pipes and directing said fluid from said passenger compartment to said engine compartment

16. The HVAC system of claim 15 wherein said tray is positioned between a vehicle occupant and said pipes for precluding contact of said pipes by said vehicle occupant.

17. The HVAC system of claim 15, further comprising:

an evaporator located proximate to said pipes and having a drain tube extending therefrom for delivering condensation away from said evaporator and to said tray, said evaporator including an inlet pipe and an outlet pipe, said tray configured to collect fluid leaking from said evaporator inlet and outlet pipes.

18. The HVAC system of claim 17 wherein said tray includes a planar portion and a wall extending around a perimeter thereof, said wall having an opening for receiving said drain tube of said evaporator.

19. The HVAC system of claim 15 wherein said tray includes an outlet port extending through said dash panel for draining fluid from said tray and into said engine compartment.

20. The HVAC system of claim 15 wherein said tray is disposed generally below said pipes whereby gravity influences fluid escaping from said pipes into said tray.